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light *plus* corona was not above 1002. Hence, to photograph the corona in full sunshine, we must be able to record a difference of brilliancy, a contrast, of $\frac{1}{100}$. The eye could detect a contrast of $\frac{1}{10}$ only, and hence the attempt seemed hopeless, as the rays and streamers of the corona had a continuous spectrum like that of diffused daylight. He also exhibited some photographs of the moon taken in the daytime by Mr. BURNHAM, with a lens of aperture = $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, focus = 9 inches, stop $f/44$, time $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{100}$ of a second. The moon was more than 120° from the sun at the time.

Experiments on this matter were recommended to the amateur photographers of the Society, and it was asked that successful trials might be communicated to the Lick Observatory. Photographs of the dark side of the moon before first quarter might be included in the plan. Each plate exposed should be marked with the observer's name; the aperture, stop, and plate employed; the hour and minute of exposure; the length of exposure.

Mr. KEELER exhibited some prints made on ordinary dry plates and on ortho-chromatic plates, and recommended the attention of the members of the Society to the excellent results attained by the use of the latter plates, and suggested a trial of them for pictures of the moon in the daytime, as the moon was relatively rich in light of greater wave length than F.

NOTICES FROM THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

PREPARED BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

The desire is expressed, on many sides, that the Publications of the Society should contain brief notices of the work current at the Lick Observatory, because much of this work is necessarily published in Eastern and foreign journals and therefore may escape the attention of our members.

Such notices must evidently be of the briefest and most popular character, and very often can be nothing more than a reference to the title and place of publication of a paper. Even such references as these may serve, it is said, to call the attention of our members to the existence of a paper which may be of interest to several of them.

It is therefore proposed, as an experiment merely, to include in

each of our Publications a few pages of items relating to the work of the Lick Observatory. Should these meet the want which has been expressed, it will be easy to continue them in the future. In this way an acquaintance with the work of the Observatory can be maintained, without taking too much space in the pages of our Publications, which should be reserved for longer articles by the members of the Society in general.

As the Observatory commenced active operations not long before the foundation of the Society, the present number of the *Notices* may well be devoted to a list of the mere titles of the different papers, etc., which have been sent to various scientific journals and magazines since June 1, 1888, by the members of the Observatory staff. Articles printed in newspapers, etc., are not included, as these are generally of transient interest only. This list, then, will bring the history of the astronomical activity of the Observatory up to the present time, and leave a clear field for the subsequent numbers of these *Notices*.

E. S. H.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE DAVIDSON COMET.

The comet discovered by Mr. DAVIDSON at Queensland, on July 21, was photographed at the Observatory by Mr. BARNARD, with the new WILLARD lens (about 5 inches aperture, 30 inches focus) on July 30. A Seed 26 plate was used, and an exposure of ninety minutes was given. The camera was mounted on the top of the twelve-inch equatorial, and the camera was kept directed at the comet by moving the slow motion screws in R. A. and in Dec. As the comet had a rapid motion in reference to the stars, the latter appeared as *trails* about 13' to 14' long. This was the comet's motion in ninety minutes of time. The head of the comet shows as a neat round mass. The tail is fan-shaped, with its borders convex to the axis, and very narrow at the root. It can easily be traced 20' and it is evident for about 53'. Mr. BARNARD could trace it no further than 50' or so, with the telescope. After the picture of the comet was taken, the negative was exposed to the light of our standard lamp for 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 seconds, making a series of squares of standard intensity. (See Lick Observatory Eclipse Report, page 12.) The night-sky was less intense than the square exposed one second. The brightest part of the tail of the comet 2' or so from the head matched the standard square exposed ten seconds. Hence the comet is about nine and one-half times as bright as its back-